

THE “EYE”


APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2004

As the weather has warmed up and those piles of snow have disappeared the time has returned to buff up the outside of your home. When thinking about spring yard cleanup remember to incorporate some crime prevention concepts. Look at plant growth to ensure it is not becoming overgrown and creating natural concealment areas for criminals. Trees and shrubs, especially those near porches, doors and windows should be trimmed using the “three foot, six foot” rule. Shrubs should be left no higher than three feet and tree limbs should be no lower than six feet. This space, between three to six feet above ground, creates a natural surveillance area that allows you and your neighbors to be able to see any activity near your home.

During this same time frame we would ask that you beware of home repair scams. Over the winter months there was a lot of snow and ice so there may be a need for legitimate contractors out making repairs. This could also provide ample opportunity for scam artists. If you need repairs be sure to use a verified business. When someone you don't know is at your door wanting to make repairs on your house tell them, "No." Remember, most frauds will be unsolicited and will employ high pressure sales tactics including asking for payment before any work is done.

There are many situations where you or a family member could become injured. Most of the time it will not be immediately serious or life threatening but if left untreated could become a problem. Especially in a disaster situation knowing some basic treatment and having supplies available could be very important. Being able to stop bleeding and prevent infection can make a life saving difference for a victim. Making a basic first aid kit to have on hand is a good step toward being prepared. The following list, provided by www.READY.GOV, gives some important items to be included.

- Things it may be good to have:

- Cell phone
 - Scissors
 - Tweezers
 - Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
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Non-prescription drugs:

- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Antacid for upset stomach
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Laxative
- Activated charcoal to use if advised by the Poison Control Center



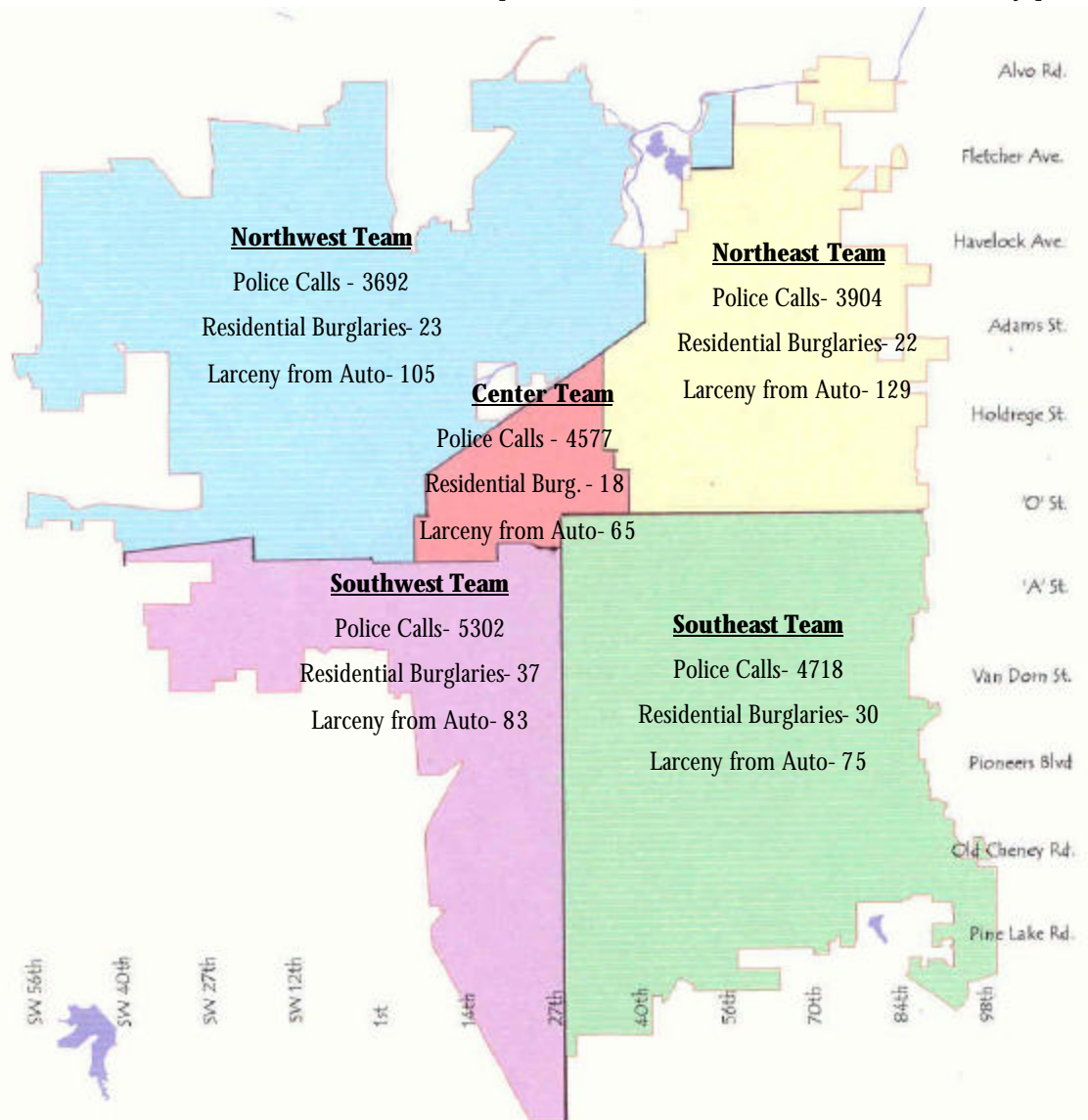
Summary Overview

During the early part of 2004 there was a typical slow-down of crimes occurring. This reduction usually coincides with the winter season. This year significant snowfall and a period of frigid temperatures contributed to the hiatus of crime. However, as the temperatures warmed and the piles of snow cleared away the criminals returned to their usual activities. Larcenies from autos and burglaries began to occur at a greater rate. We also saw an increase in vandalisms when a series of windows were shot out with BBs and a series of tire slashing occurred.

Improved conditions outside mean an increase in activity- both legitimate and criminal. Remain aware of what is happening in your neighborhood and report any suspicious activity. Continue to exercise good security at your home and with your car.

SUMMARY OF REPORTED CRIMES between 1-1-2004 and 2-29-2004

For additional information, statistics, or crime maps refer to the LPD web-site at: www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/police

**Protect your purse & wallet**

Over the past few months there have been several larcenies occurring at retail stores. These are opportunistic incidents when shoppers leave their purse or wallet unattended in a shopping cart. Once the purse is stolen, the cash, check books and credit cards are taken. Within a matter of minutes the thieves go to other stores and use the victim's checks and credit cards to buy merchandise. The range of loss to victims has been between \$2,000 to \$5,000. Don't leave your property unattended while shopping.

2003 YEAR-END STATISTICS

Through 2003 Lincoln Police Officers responded to 145,158 calls for service. Out of those responses there were 2,189 felony arrests, 22,054 misdemeanor arrests and 1,620 narcotics arrests. Traffic related matters included 9,290 reportable traffic accidents being investigated, 1,340 DWI arrests, 48,205 official traffic citations and 30,340 warning citations (2,587 officials and warnings for traffic signal violations). Notably there were 1,286 residential burglaries which is a 6.8% reduction from the previous year. Similarly the 4,412 larcenies from autos were 4.4% fewer than in 2002. We hope we can attribute these reductions to heightened awareness and proactive action on the part of citizens. Arrests, or clearance rates, for these offenses remained consistent with last year.

Another one of our very important programs, CRIME STOPPERS (475-3600), showed marked success through 2003. During the year there were 1,435 calls made to Crime Stoppers. Because of those calls 527 cases were solved, 402 arrests were made and, amazingly, \$380,077 worth of property was recovered. Crime Stoppers paid out a total of \$23,300 to callers whose tips led to these successes.



McGRUFF HOUSE

The school year will be done in the first week of June. We need to be aware of increased youthful activity in our neighborhoods even during the daytime hours. Be careful when driving through neighborhoods realizing that children may be playing near streets or intersections. Also watch out for any suspicious people or unusual behavior around children in the neighborhood. If anyone feels uneasy about something that is occurring they should call for a police officer to come and investigate. If everyone watches and is aware our children will be safer.

Another way to help keep children and neighborhoods safer is to become involved with McGruff House. This program organizes volunteers in an elementary school area as safe houses- places a child could stop if they were being bullied, were frightened, or needed help. McGruff Houses are established through a police sponsored application process that includes a confidential criminal history check on everyone in the household who is over 18 years old. This is done to best insure that the homes we are telling our children to go to are safe. If you would like more information on being a McGruff House Volunteer please call the LPD Crime Prevention Group at 441-7261.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PARTNERS

Community Volunteer Partners will be recruiting people to participate in the "Emergency Volunteer Project." This program will develop three to five sites called "Emergency Volunteer Reception Centers." In the case of a disaster situation these will be places that "spontaneous volunteers" could report to and then be assigned as part of an organized response to the incident. The goal is to train up to five hundred citizens who will operate these reception centers so that others can then deal directly with the disaster. These volunteers would be an asset to professionals and other volunteers during an emergency response. If you are interested and would like more information you can check the web-site at, www.volunteerparkers.org, or call 435-2100. The mailing address is:

Community Volunteer Partners
215 S. Centennial Mall Suite 325
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

SMOKE DETECTOR ALARMS

Smoke detectors are an integral part of your safety at home. Even if you have newer models of these alarms in your house you need to consider periodic maintenance and replacement. A study, by Canada's Ontario Housing Corporation, showed that fifteen year old alarms had a 50% failure rate. The study further showed that at ten years there was about a 30% probability of failure. The Lincoln Fire Prevention Bureau suggests that you conduct regular monthly testing of your smoke detectors. Checking your alarms will determine if you need to replace batteries or if the entire unit needs to be replaced.

www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/build/inspect/bureau/smokedetector



Pet Owner Requirements by Animal Control Officer Kris Johnson

Winter is finally over. Spring is here. People and their pets start to enjoy the nice weather. Windows and doors are opened for fresh air and the lovely sounds of spring. However, not everyone will enjoy the season unless dog owners do their part.

Don't forget to clean up after your dog. Owners are required by law to clean up their yards every 5 days. When walking your dog, you are required by law to pick up after your dog. There are a lot of ways to clean up the mess. One of the easiest ways is to take a bag (newspaper sack, bread sack, etc.) with you. When the dog goes, put your hand in the bag, grab the stool, fold the bag over on itself (over your hand), tie it shut, and dispose of it. It's a fact of life, what goes in also comes out. Be a good neighbor. Pick up after your dog.

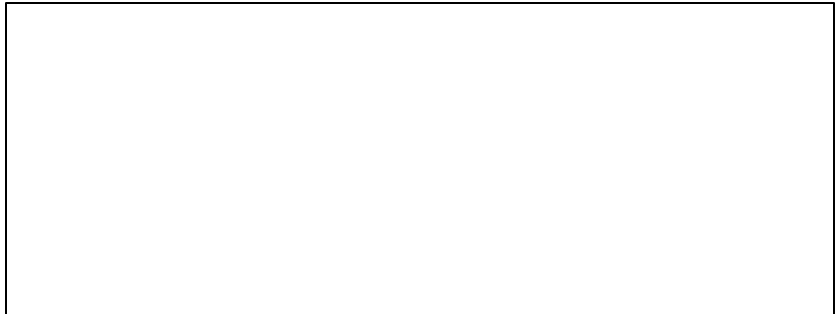
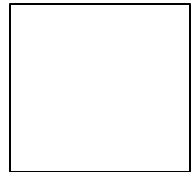
Something else can become a nuisance if owners don't pay attention to their dogs barking. Dogs bark for many reasons. It's part of their nature to bark, it's an important method of communication, and they enjoy it. That's why your dog should be trained when to bark and when not to bark. It will take some time, but you can train your dog not to bark. The best way to train your dog is through positive reinforcement. Punishing wrong behavior is the least effective way to train your dog. It does not help him learn correct behavior and may make problems worse or create new problems because he now fears you. Teach him, be patient, and be consistent. If you correct your dog once and not the next time, he will never learn. Praise him when he obeys your commands. Really praise him. Often a barking dog is a bored dog that doesn't get enough exercise or affection. Provide him with things to play with, toys balls, etc. Do things together, go for walks, play ball, attend an obedience class.

According to Lincoln City Ordinance 6.08.160, it is unlawful for any person to "...own, keep or harbor any dog which by loud, continuous, or frequent barking, howling or yelping shall annoy or disturb any neighborhood person or persons." If you own a dog that barks frequently and/or excessively for more than 15 minutes, you own a nuisance dog and can be taken to court. If your neighbor has a barking dog, you can file a noise complaint with Animal Control. Loving your dog is not enough. You have to train your dog to be a good neighbor. Dogs can be good canine citizens. Your neighbors will appreciate your efforts. Lincoln, a great place to live and enjoyed by many, people and animals alike.

*The "EYE"
Neighborhood Watch*

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION GROUP
575 SOUTH 10TH ST.
LINCOLN NE, 68508

Return Service Requested



Blast from the past...

Lincoln Nebraska has never been a featured city for the current police show "COPS" however, Lincoln has experienced "Hollywood" style car chases in the past. Just such an event occurred 70 years ago this month on April 20, 1934. Shortly after noon that day, Officers Condit and Robbins observed three suspicious looking men in a car with Texas plates. The officers made a U-turn at 14th and "O" Street and the chase was on !

The suspects opened fire on the patrol car as it caught up to them at 18th and "O" Street. Since patrol car radios could only receive and not send transmissions at this time, headquarters had no information on the chase until citizens started to call in with questions and concerns. The running gun battle continued as the two vehicles sped east on "O" Street during lunch hour traffic. A young school boy was shot and killed by a wild shot fired from the Texas car at 21st and "O" Streets.

The driver of the Texas car lost control and put it into the ditch near Prairie Home, 17 miles east of Lincoln. When the shooting stopped, one suspect was dead, another wounded with the third individual giving up to officers. Bank bags from a robbery in Oklahoma were found inside the wrecked car. The two suspects that survived were sentenced to life imprisonment for the death of the school boy.



Suspect vehicle in the ditch after vehicle chase in 1934. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Sommers)